



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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State Certifies Former Handcraft Tile Site in Milpitas

Berkeley – The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced completion (certification) of the hazardous substances cleanup at the former Handcraft Tile site, currently owned by Main Street Investments, Inc. The site, received an “unrestricted use” certification, the Department’s most conservative standard, and will be redeveloped into residential housing complex.

“We are pleased to see the successful completion of work at this site,” said DTSC Acting Director Leonard Robinson. “The certification of this site is consistent with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s Environmental Action Plan to adequately address previously contaminated sites so that they can be redeveloped into residential properties,” Robinson added.

Located at 1696 Main Street, Handcraft Tile began manufacturing ceramic and terra cotta tiles on the 1.5-acre site in 1953. Earlier manufacturing operations used pigments containing lead to make the tiles. Residues from the washing of glaze mixing equipment were disposed on the site, and caused the soil to be contaminated with lead. Around 1999, the Handcraft Tile business was sold and operated by new management. Handcraft Tile moved from the location in November 2004. Main Street Investments, Inc. announced their intention to sell the property.

Soil sampling at the site during September 2003 and July 2004, required as a part of a pre-purchase agreement, indicated levels of lead in soil as high as 2,100 parts per million. DTSC worked with the current property owner and the prospective buyer to develop an acceptable Removal Action Workplan. Main Street Investments, Inc., the current property owner, conducted the cleanup activities in September and October 2005, which included the excavation of 1,628 cubic yards of lead-contaminated soil (approximately 94 truck loads) that were transported and disposed at a permitted facility.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control’s mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.